

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4795

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 3619

SECOND C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

STATE PASS NSF FOR DR. ATKINSON AND NAS FOR DR. HANDLER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN OSCI PL US

SUBJ: COPERNICUS ASTRONOMICAL CENTER

REF: STATE 108108

1. FOLLOWING UP MY CALL ON PAN SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY KACZMAREK ON APRIL 26 (WARSAW 3506) AND DR. GANLEY'S DEMARCHE TO AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI ON APRIL 27, I ARRANGED AN URGENT APPOINTMENT WITH SCIENCE MINISTER KALISKI IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 28 TO CARRY FORWARD DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION OF UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE COPERNICUS ASTRONOMICAL CENTER (CAC). THANKS TO SPASOWSKI, THE POLES HAD GIVEN IMMEDIATE ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE, AND KALISKI WAS READY WITH A CONCILIATORY POLISH RESPONSE.

2. WHEN I BEGAN MY PRESENTATION, KALISKI INTERRUPTED TO SAY HE BELIEVED HE WAS ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH THE PROBLEM. A DETAILED COMMUNICATION HAVING BEEN RECEIVED THAT MORNING FROM SPASOWSKI, THE MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH THAT AFTERNOON BETWEEN KACZMAREK, KALISKI, AND AN MFA REPRESENTATIVE. KALISKI SAID HE WISHED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT PAN WAS AN INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION, NOT UNDER HIS MINISTRY'S JURISDICTION;
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BUT NEVERTHELESS THEY HAD WORKED OUT AN AGREED POSITION AS FOLLOWS:

A. IN THE POLISH VIEW, THE NSF-PAN AGREEMENT DOES NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF ASSIGNMENT TO THE CAC OF RESEARCHERS IN OTHER FIELDS, SUCH AS ASTROPHYSICS AND GEOPHYSICS;

B. POLAND'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CAC CONSTITUTES 50 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL COSTS AND WOULD JUSTIFY A DECISION TO

ENABLE STAFF MEMBERS OF THE SPACE RESEARCH CENTER TO SHARE CAC QUARTERS;

C. THE POLES HAD BEEN PLANNING TO ASSIGN ONLY 17 PERSONS FROM THE SPACE RESEARCH CENTER TO CAC QUARTERS; THERE IS AMPLE, AND BADLY-NEEDED, ROOM IN THE CAC, WHOSE STAFF OF ASTRONOMERS AND RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PERSONNEL TOTALS NO MORE THAN 70 PERSONS;

D. THE WORK OF THE SPACE RESEARCH CENTER PERSONNEL, ALTHOUGH CARRIED OUT IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SOVIET ACADEMY, WOULD BE WHOLLY PUBLIC AND OPEN, WITHOUT ANY RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED;

E. NEVERTHELESS, THE POLES NOW PLAN TO POSTPONE ANY ACTION WHATEVER REGARDING THE POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT OF SPACE RESEARCH CENTER PERSONNEL TO CAC QUARTERS, UNTIL DR. ATKINSON ARRIVES. AT THAT TIME, THE WHOLE MATTER CAN BE DISCUSSED, AND THE POLES WILL TRY TO CLARIFY WHAT THEY HAD IN MIND IN AN EFFORT TO THEN REACH A COMMON DECISION.

3. KALISKI ADDED THAT, IF THE U.S. SIDE IS THEN STILL OPPOSED TO SUCH ASSIGNMENT OF SPACE RESEARCH CENTER PERSONNEL, THE POLISH SIDE IS PREPARED TO ACCEDE TO U.S. VIEWS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE POLES CERTAINLY DO NOT WISH A PROBLEM LIKE THIS TO INTERFERE IN ANY WAY WITH THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION WITH THE U.S., WHICH THEY CONSIDER MOST IMPORTANT. THEY ARE ALSO ANXIOUS TO CALM ANY AMERICAN SCIENTISTS WHO MAY HAVE BECOME UNDULY EXCITED. HE NOTED THAT, IF IT IS DECIDED THAT NO SPACE RESEARCH CENTER PERSONNEL SHOULD BE MOVED INTO CONFIDENTIAL

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THE CAC, THE POLES WOULD LIKELY SUGGEST THAT SOME OTHER SCIENTISTS, IN "PURE" FIELDS, MIGHT TEMPORARILY OCCUPY OTHERWISE VACANT ROOMS IN THE CAC, BECAUSE OF THE SHORTAGE OF RESEARCH QUARTERS IN WARSAW.

4. I SAID I WOULD CONVEY THE POLISH POSITION AT ONCE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF DR. ATKINSON AND OTHERS INVOLVED ON THE U.S. SIDE. I ALSO NOTED AGAIN THAT THE ABSENCE OF ANY PRIOR CONSULTATION BY THE POLES ABOUT THEIR PLANS FOR USE OF THE CENTER HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING US TO THE PRESENT DIFFICULTY.

5. COMMENT: THE POLES HAVE THUS RETREATED, PROMPTLY AND AS GRACEFULLY AS THEY COULD, FROM AN OBVIOUSLY UNTENABLE AND EMBARRASSING SITUATION. WE SUSPECT THAT THE NOTION OF MOVING SPACE RESEARCH CENTER PERSONNEL INTO THE CAC MAY WELL NOT HAVE BEEN STAFFED OUT WITHIN THE GOP SCIENCE COMMUNITY, AT LEAST OUTSIDE THE PAN. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE IMPLICATIONS WERE NOT WELL CONSIDERED. AT ANY RATE, THE POLISH REACTION PROVIDES FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE IMPORTANCE THE LEADERSHIP ATTACHES TO MAINTAINING UNIMPAIRED THE SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION WITH THE U.S.

6. ON THE BASIS OF KALISKI'S ASSURANCES, I NOW RECOMMEND THAT

DR. ATKINSON (AND OF COURSE NAS REPRESENTATIVES, IF THEY WISH)
VISIT POLAND AS PREVIOUSLY PLANNED. AFTER LISTENING TO THE POLISH
EXPLANATIONS AT THAT TIME, HOWEVER, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE BEST
TO CONTINUE TO REJECT USE OF THE CAC BY THE SPACE CENTER. THIS
WOULD HELP REMOVE ANY LATER TEMPTATIONS TO SHIFT THE EMPHASIS OF
CAC WORK FROM ASTRONOMY TO SPACE SCIENCE, AT A TIME WHEN OUR
BARGAINING POSITION MAY NOT BE AS STRONG. END COMMENT.
SCHAUFLE

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